

ABSTRACT

1 Disclosed is a machinery operator protection system and method,
2 which inhibits the use of machinery unless the operator of the
3 machinery is properly secured with a lanyard and/or body harness
4 to the machinery. The disclosed system includes a lanyard
5 connection detector for detecting proper attachment of at least
6 one lanyard to a machinery operator and a lanyard interlock
7 control for controlling a switch to selectively enable activation
8 of the machinery when the lanyard connection detector indicates
9 that the operator is properly attached to the machinery with the
10 lanyard. The disclosed method includes the steps of: detecting
11 when at least one safety lanyard is properly attached to a between
12 a machinery operator and a piece of machinery; and inhibiting
13 operation of the machinery unless proper operator safety lanyard
14 attachment is detected. Optionally, the method may also include
15 providing an audible or visual warning alarm to advise the
16 machinery operator if he or she attempts to use the machinery
17 without proper safety lanyard attachment.

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